Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

NPT/CONF.2000/PC.II/22
5 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Second session
Geneva, 27 April - 8 May 1998

THE RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Working paper submitted by Egypt

Operative paragraph 1:

> "*Endorses* the aims and objectives of the Middle East Peace process and recognizes that efforts in this regard as well as other efforts contribute to, *inter alia*, a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction;"

This paragraph recognizes that, in addition to the Middle East Peace process, "other efforts" also contribute to a Middle East NWFZ or WMDFZ. It remains for the prepcom to identify specifically what is meant by "other efforts" and to encourage States to contribute to such efforts. The Prepcom should thus recommend that agreement be reached on an agenda containing various items, including: the study of the nuclear status of the region; the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological; and other items related to arms control and disarmament as well as agreement on the lowest levels of armaments. Such efforts could also include, *inter alia*, workshops, seminars, conferences, etc. which are attended by the States of the region and which deal with relevant political as well as technical issues. These should result in agreement on a process of informal deliberations along the lines of the agenda proposed above. All of the above should be reflected in the report of the prepcom and in its recommendations to the 2000 Review Conference.

Operative paragraphs 2 & 3 & 4:

> "2.*Notes with satisfaction* that in its report Main Committee III of the Conference recommended that the Conference 'call on those remaining States not Parties to the Treaty to accede to it, thereby accepting an international legally

binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept international Atomic Energy Agency safeguards on all their nuclear activities';"

"3.*Notes with concern* the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, and reaffirms in this connection the recommendation contained in paragraph VI/3 of the report of Main Committee III urging those non-parties to the Treaty which operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities to accept full scope safeguards;"

"4.*Reaffirms* the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and *calls upon* all States of the Middle East that have not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under full scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;"

Bearing in mind that Israel is now the only State in the Middle East which has not yet acceded to the NPT, not accepted any international legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and not accepted full scope safeguards on all its nuclear facilities, the prepcom must include in its report a strong recommendation to the 2000 Review Conference requesting Israel to accede to the NPT immediately and to place all its nuclear facilities under full scope IAEA safeguards.

Operative paragraph 5:

"*Calls upon* all States in the Middle East to take practical steps in appropriate forums aimed at making progress towards , *inter alia*, the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East Zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems, and to refrain from taking any measures that preclude the achievement of this objective;"

The "practical steps" referred to in paragraph 5 above, in Egypt's view, include the following:

- the early conclusion of the text of a treaty on a NWFZ as a step towards the establishment of a WMDFZ in the Middle East

- requesting, for the aforementioned purpose, the assistance of international organizations such as the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Such assisstance could include, *inter alia*, the dispatching of a special envoy to the Middle East with the task of assissting the States of the region in their endeavors to reach the objective of a nuclear weapon free Middle East.

Operative paragraph 6:

> "*Calls upon* all States party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to extend their cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment by regional parties of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems."

The States parties to the NPT, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States should play an important role towards contributing to a Middle East as a zone free from nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction. In application of paragraph 6 above, the prepcom should request States parties to the NPT, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to indicate at every prepcom, starting with the present one, and at the 2000 Review Conference, in what ways they were able "to extend their cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the establishment by regional parties of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems".